

# Ideals

## Talk #1

**Scripture Ref:** Proverbs 29:18

**Speaker & Length** Youth, 15 Minutes

**Progression** This is the first talk of the weekend. Since all talks are linked together, it is important that the message we send in Ideals is clear. As we mature, we choose ideals we see in other people and model our lives after them. The ideals we choose can imprison us by making us selfish, and hinder our growth, or they can liberate us from selfishness and thereby aid our growth. Jesus has shown us ideals.

**Purpose** Talk should be an "ice breaker", whereby a person tells about his growing awareness of who he is becoming as a person and the helps and hindrances he has experienced.

**NOTE:** Insert this paragraph after the meditation and your introduction, before you begin your talk: "The table has provided you with notepads and pens. During the course of the weekend, the various speakers will make points that will be important for your table discussions. When these points are made, they will ask you to write them down. We ask that you cooperate with us and do so, as these notes will be useful to you, not only during the weekend, but as a reference later. The title of this talk is 'Ideals'. Please write that down."

## Introduction

We should create a desire so our friends will want to figure out what their ideal has been, how they chose it, and encouragement to develop into a more mature Christian lifestyle. We are moved to live up to our potential when we live above our instincts and set goals and try to achieve those goals. You have more of a sense of being when you have an ideal and discipline your life to live up to that ideal. In other words "plan your work (or life) and work your plan".

Tell your story so that your friends can see your ideal. Show the changes you have made and what happened to cause you to make them.

### I. Definition

An Ideal is

- A. An image of who we want to be.
- B. The image of a perfect situation.
- C. A self-selected goal toward which we can move and which we can measure.

### II. Who am I using as a hero?

- A. Describe who I admired as a child.

1. How I dressed to be like him/her
  2. What I did to be like him/her
  3. How was my buying influenced by my hero?
- B. As I have grown older, my heroes have changed.
1. I consider what they think and value
  2. I look at their lifestyle, do they speak out against injustice?
  3. I am now looking for heroes who live a lifestyle like I would like to live?

**III. Who and what your heroes are represent the ideal toward which you are growing. (You're becoming what you think.)**

- A. My ideal is the way I want to develop in my life.
- B. How I spend my time, energy, money and the way I dress and my actions will tell you about my ideal.
- C. I must develop myself and be willing to sacrifice some things to achieve my ideal. No pain, no gain. I may have to give up the rights to some of my desires or wishes to achieve it.

**IV. Sometimes a person's ideal is negative**

- A. It can be completely sexual.
- B. To be #1 at the expense of others can be your negative ideal.
- C. Sometimes being "most popular" is negative.
- D. Escape like drugs, alcohol and fads are negative.
- E. Doing something because it is forbidden.

**V. If I am a Christian my ideal is to be like Christ**

- A. Being a Christian is a relationship.
- B. Being a Christian is normal and natural not an act.
- C. Being a Christian is having others say that I acted like Jesus with love and compassion. It may mean taking an unpopular stand (Matt. 5:3-17).
- D. Being Christ-like means we walk the walk if we talk the talk. In ministering in prisons, hospitals, our schools, and our own homes.

**VI. I want to leave you with some simple questions that will help you decide what your ideal is.**

- A. How do I spend my money, time and energy?
- B. Do my actions line up with my stated ideal?
- C. Will my ideal really make me happy if I achieve it?
- D. Will I become the kind of adult that I really want to be if I follow my ideal?